

Durand Oak

Quercus durandii Buckl.

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Durand oak, also called Bluff oak, Durand white oak, White oak and Basket oak, is a white oak that superficially resembles certain of the water oaks. The tree was named for Philadelphia pharmacist and botanist Elias Magloire Durand (1794-1873.)

The trees, which are often 60 to 90 feet in height and 2 to 3 feet in diameter, have comparatively small branches which are, lower horizontal, upper ascending, forming a dense round-topped head. The wood is very heavy, hard, strong and brittle.

The bark and wood resemble white and post oak, and the acorns water oak. The bark is thin, light gray with thin scales loosely appressed.

Leaves are obovate or elliptic, thin, margin entire or slightly 3-lobed. Three irregular forms may occur on different branches of the same tree at the same time. Some may resemble water oak, while others are dark green lustrous above, and light and smooth beneath; still others may be 6 to 7 inches long, 3



to 3-1/2 inches wide, light green above and white and very hairy below.

The tree flowers in the spring with red, male catkins 1 to 2 inches long. The acorns mature in a single season and are

round, pale chestnut brown, 1/2 to 2/3 inches long, barely enclosed in the thin shallow saucer-like cup with appressed scales that are slightly thickened on the back.

This tree grows on rich limestone prairie soils and other soils rich in lime. It is restricted to the Deep South and is nowhere abundant. In Alabama, it is comparatively rare across the state. It has been reported to grow in Morgan, Blount, Jefferson, Tuscaloosa, Bibb, Sumter, Greene, Hale, Perry, Dallas, Wilcox, Choctaw, and Clarke Counties.

Because it is so rare it has contributed little to the supply of white oak lumber. Historical uses include pins in cotton gins, spools, baskets, and wagon hubs. Today it is used for pulp.

The Alabama Champion Durand oak is located in Dallas County. It is 76 feet tall, has a circumference of 150 inches, and a crown spread of 75 feet. Its total point value is 244.75. The National Champion is located in Omaha, Georgia. It is 95 feet tall with a circumference of 189 inches and a crown spread of 106 feet, earning 311 total points. 🌳



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